

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,  
HELD FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1919.

The seventh meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1919 was held in its office at 1729 New York Avenue, Washington, D. C., on May 9, 1919.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman;  
Mr. Platt;  
Mr. Kendall;  
Mr. Greenleaf;

also Colonel C. S. Ridley, Secretary and  
Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and proceeded at once to the business before it.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING : The minutes of the preceding meeting held in Washington on April 25, 1919, were presented by the Secretary and approved, subject to the substitution of the words "asked the War Department to place at the disposal of the Fine Arts Commission the sum of \$3,000 for compensation of the sculptor, including the production of the master die; and that the Department had agreed to do so. The Commission selected Mr. James E. Fraser of New York as the designer." for that part of Section 14 beginning in the 8th line and with the words "asked the War Department to place ....".

2. PRINCETON MONUMENT: By letter of April 26, 1919, the Acting Secretary of War submitted to the Commission architectural drawings and specifications, and a photograph of the large-sized model, of the Princeton monument, for the comment and advice of the Commission. He particularly asked for the views of the Commission regarding the use of Bedford Indiana



limestone in place of the granite and bronze as originally contemplated. The Commission had learned that the monument is now in progress of erection according to the plans submitted and that buff limestone is being used; the only question left open therefore appeared to be whether buff limestone or bronze shall be used for the sculpture. The Commission were firmly of opinion that both monument and sculpture should be of the same material; the use of bronze on stone in a short time presents the appearance of a black spot, which is neither agreeable or effective. As to the enduring qualities of limestone for sculptural uses the examples are not sufficient, as to either number or time, to enable the Commission to express an opinion.

The Commission voiced their regret that matters had proceeded so far as to preclude their advice on the subject of site, design, and other items of use to the Department. (See Exhibit A).

3. PLANS FOR ENLARGEMENT OF THE NAVAL AIR STATION AT ANACOSTIA, D.C:  
On May 1, 1919, Admiral Parks in charge of the Bureau of Yards and Docks of the Navy Department submitted for the approval of the Commission the plan for the proposed enlargement of the Naval Air Station at Anacostia, D.C. (See Exhibit B for his letter of reference and details). The proposed buildings are to be divided into three distinct divisions, residential and administrative, industrial, and experimental.

By appointment Commander Kirby Smith and Mr. Partridge of his office appeared before the Commission at 12 o'clock for a conference on the plan. It was understood that the buildings were to be temporary. The Commission advised that while the shapes of the buildings do not always lend themselves to harmonious development of a group, this can be remedied in large part by the use of planting as shown on the plans. The Commission were agreed that the arrangement of the buildings, the general scheme of treatment,



and the use of materials as outlined by Commander Smith were as satisfactory as conditions will allow, but made a number of critical suggestions during the discussion which they were assured would be followed out in the development of the plans. (See Exhibit C).

4. LINCOLN STATUE IN FRONT OF COURT HOUSE: The Chairman brought to the attention of the Commission a letter from Chief Justice McCoy of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, transmitting a resolution addressed to him by the Brightwood Citizens Association that requested the relocation of the Lincoln statue now in front of the Court House to a site at Fort Stevens. The Commission felt that if the Citizens Association and those in charge of the Fort could agree on a suitable site, it would be an excellent disposition of this vexing problem, particularly as a location might be found near the spot where Lincoln was under fire during the Civil War. In communicating with Judge McCoy, the Chairman stated that the Commission would go out to find a suitable location on that site. (See Exhibit D).

5. PUBLIC PARKS UNDER THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS IN WASHINGTON: Acting as a committee of the Commission, and accompanied by the Officer in charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Greenleaf on April 24th last made an inspection of various park areas in the city, and on May 3d rendered his committee report in memorandum form to that officer. This was the result of several memoranda submitted by the landscape architect of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds to the Officer in charge, dated March 21, 1919, and April 11, 1919, (attached hereto as Exhibits E and F), and referred by that Officer to the Commission for advice and criticism.

The report of the committee is as follows:





The experience of the committee of the Commission of Fine Arts in discussing with you the small public spaces of Washington, on Thursday, April 24th, was a pleasant one. Of course, it is realized how impossible it is to give adequate consideration in one day to the many squares, circles and triangles which make up the little parks of Washington. Many visits would be necessary for a detailed discussion of them, but the one day, coupled with the incidental impressions acquired from time to time, bring out certain fundamental ideas with a fair degree of clearness. The city of Washington aims to be a model city of the United States. It should be a center from which radiate the best influences and ideals in all phases of art and management as well as in politics. The ambition of the Commission is that the small parks and circles of Washington shall be representative of the very best, both here and abroad, in design and handling. This is an aim that we are quite sure your office is in entire sympathy with and we also are sure you recognize that there is something lacking in this respect. The parks are of unequal ~~the~~ artistic value, some have the highest promise and others need radical overhauling.

We would be glad to see the Department of Buildings and Grounds adopt as a basis of all future operations certain fundamental principals. It is our belief that, as a preliminary, it is well to state these comprehensive principals, at least some of the more obvious of them. The entire subject for the city of Washington is so large that we would become lost in jumping without system from this detail to that. We present certain principals, therefore, at this juncture, and advise that your office force study their bearing upon each separate public space as it comes up for consideration. The Commission will then be happy to criticize in a constructive and friendly spirit such changes in design and such reconstruction of paths, water basins, flower beds, shrubbery and tree grouping, etc., as you may suggest. While offering this program, however, the Commission would deprecate a subsiding into a policy of laissez faire. We feel the importance of radical action on your part as rapidly as the funds available will permit. Treating now of fundamental principals it must be realized that we can only touch them in this letter. The first is:

DESIGN OF LAY-OUT. As a rule the open spaces lack definition and scale in their lay-out, there is too much drift toward the so-called naturalistic design. This is alright in a large area like Rock Creek Park but is all wrong in a little space between city blocks, the result is that many open spaces lack "snappiness"; they are totally uninteresting to one trained in design. We would advise in nearly all cases that winding paths be done away with; straight lines and circular arcs are far more suitable. Of course breaks in topography may give a reason for irregular curves, but rarely is there any other justification. Avoid the placing of paths where their intersections cause little triangles and weakness of design. Geometrical, sharp angles should be relieved by curves of small radius, or by set-backs; trumpet shaped openings degenerate into total lack of design. The angles of streets sometimes cause very acute angles in the lawns. Do not carry the curbing to its geometrical ending in a sharp protruding corner. Break back to where the space permits a convex or concave curve, perhaps with insets.

Not all the open spaces in Washington are poorly designed in this respect, we are here proposing general rules of good design, not making universal criticisms. A notably good design is a little triangle at the meeting of Sixteenth Street and





Park Road. By comparing it with the general run of the open spaces of Washington one catches the significance of the preceding remarks.

In this connection we especially urge consideration of Dupont Circle; now that the new fountain is about to be built why not take the occasion to make this Circle a model of good design, as a setting for the fountain? It is our strong impression that a way can be found for reorganizing the path system in accordance with the preceding principals so as to keep the more obvious direct lines of travel (this is always of prime importance) and so as to not interfere with the important trees.

CHARACTER OF PLANTING. This is already largely determined in many instances by permanent and valuable tree growth. Nevertheless, for the future, tree planting, as others are removed for various causes, should be on the right lines. We can only say, on general principals, place them so as to form suitable back-ground for statuary or to frame vistas or screen unsightly objects, and to fall in with good design of paths, etc. We question the use of trees like paulonia imperialis. We notice that the silver maple has been used largely for street trees; it grows rapidly and almost invariably is later cut back to unsightly stumps. So far as possible influence the District Commissioner to replace all weedy trees with those of permanent value, at least do not plant them in the parks. We do not understand why the willow oak has not been more used in Washington, it is our impression that this valuable tree would thrive here.

There are superb trees here and there in the larger squares of Washington. Except where there is some strong object in keeping it, clear out under-growing shrubbery and small growth and let the trees stand clearly in the lawn with their beautiful contrast of shadow and sun-light. Such small growth is unsatisfactory and seems almost an impertinence.

The subject of shrub specimens, evergreen grouping, and shrub masses for the small parks and open spaces is a complex one. They can be of great value and yet there is no one thing that contributes more to the general messiness and frouzy appearance of some of the parks than these same illmatured specimens and ragged masses.

Speaking broadly, do not try to get everything in the catalogue into each park. Use one or two well selected varieties in a place and develop their characteristic growth. Avoid the mingling of deciduous and evergreen masses. Do not try to grow evergreens like cedar and spruce under the shade of trees, there are some unfortunate illustrations of this in Lafayette Park.

The general and very natural habit of planting shrubs at the corner where paths meet is usually unfortunate. As a rule they are not so placed for the sake of good design and they lead to a spotty, restless effect. It is recognized that often the object is to prevent short cuts of travel across the grass. If a barrier is needed and shrub grouping there does not conform with the general design there are at least two alternatives, one is to set back the path space into the lawn and build there permanent seats that harmonize with the design of the park. This might well be done where the radiating paths strike into a circular path about a central water basin or fountain. The other is to plant a barrier of low growing shrubs. Keep it low and make it obvious that it is there for utility and not an attempt to make a natural growth of shrubbery. An example





of good handling may be seen at one of the side paths into the Carnegie Library. Examples of inferior handling, in this respect, can be found in numerous instances. One of the most serviceable deciduous shrubs for this purpose is the berberis Thumbergli. Of the evergreen shrubs the taxus cuspidata brevifolia and taxus repandans are among the best for this use.

We were conscious in passing through the parks of an impulse to do away with many of the little groups of shrubs and specimens scattered around so as to compose the scene into broader and more restful design. We realize, of course, that trees have to start small and the management must plan ahead for future growth. Nevertheless it is our belief that it would be well to eliminate many of the little specimen trees, as well as groups of shrubbery.

THE USE OF FLOWERS. Here we touch upon a difficult problem. The public like flowers and nothing is more natural than to plant the open spaces so as to please this taste. It is the truth however that the part of the public which has had the most opportunity for training in these matters appreciate a policy of quiet harmonious development of planting rather than of gaudy flower beds. Speaking broadly, flowers have their place in gardens and not in parks. It doubtless would be ill-advised to suddenly and radically banish all flowers from the open spaces of Washington and we do not want to be understood as unequivocally recommending this. On the other hand we would certainly like to see the other point of view and highest type of design given more consideration. To our mind the future of this problem, for Washington, lies along the following lines, namely: The development on an ample scale of one or more public gardens admittedly given over to the growth of flowers. According to the season there could be wonderful displays of tulips, chrysanthemums and other flowers such that the people would flock to see them. In this way the higher artistic sense would be developed and Washington take rank with our foremost cities in good design as well as in flower display.

As stated before, this is a complex and difficult subject and it is probably not well to handle it too radically. If a certain amount of flower growth is to be kept up in the various open spaces of Washington, may it not be, as far as possible, along the lines of good design of those spaces? For example it is almost invariably far better that flower beds should follow the lines of paths or bear geometrical relation to the boundaries of small spaces. The digging out of circular beds here and there in the lawns where tree roots and sunlight permit is fatal to good design, they are only too apt, even when in bloom, to look like puddings or fancy tarts scattered about on the lawn. One does not need to visit Washington to find examples of poor design in this respect. In fact there are conspicuous examples of it in the parks of European cities. That does not, however, make them any the less of an offense against the canons of good art.

There are, as has been stated, some conspicuous examples of good design and planting in the open spaces of Washington. One is the little triangle referred to on North Sixteenth Street. Another is the Scott Circle; there is found a refreshing simplicity, straight-forwardness of design, and quietness of planting. Still another example is the Thomas Circle; these beautiful specimens of weeping mulberry, or elm, are unexcelled as a setting to the statue. Leave the entire area in simple lawn and do away with the flower beds. It would be as well to have a border edging around the circumference of the circle of box or possibly ivy, as





in the case of the Scott Circle, to strengthen the design but otherwise it should be left as it is. We think everyone is conscious in passing either of these two circles of a certain harmony and restfulness greatly in contrast to spaces that have been over-decorated with, let us say, fancy and restless evergreen bedding.

At Scott Circle, by the way, is an opportunity for the legitimate use of flowers if they are to be used at all. The Webster statue is at one end and the Hahnemann monument at the other of an axis line passing through Scott Circle. Treating the three as one composition, a bed of flowers could be placed at the foot of the Webster monument, not a circle but a trapezoid conforming to the lines of the grass plot, and a similar bed at the Hahnemann monument. Go to the limit in flower display in these beds throughout the season from early spring to late fall, but stop right there. Do not develop other restless little beds in the neighborhood.

Still another opportunity, already well used, lies in the long narrow terrace bed somewhere in the same region adjoining the German Embassy. The use of flowers there above the retaining wall is entirely suitable.

We are tempted to go into detail about various of the parks but must come to a close. Let us mention, however, one or two.

At the Carnegie Library, for example, the design is studied primarily for its appearance from the street and is on good lines. The poplar trees should be kept cut back to not exceed their present height, the irregular planting directly to right and left of the main entrance might well be replaced by growth that would be trimmed to a high hedge mass of geometrical line. The circular flower beds should be seeded over and if flowers are used they should be in oblong beds paralleling the hedge and shrub masses along the longitudinal walk.

Lincoln Park needs careful study to develop its magnificent tree effects. Do away with the cast iron urns and drinking fountains. Arrange the flower beds, if they are deemed essential, to parallel certain of the walks, cut out the circular beds.

Lafayette Park also calls for careful and detailed study. The White House axis should be revised by eliminating the big tulip bed on Pennsylvania Avenue and the foundation under it and also the broad gravel walk to the Jackson monument. Put it all in grass and back of the box bushes carry a straight parallel gravel walk down to Pennsylvania Avenue. Probably the same treatment would work out well north from the Jackson statue. There two good urns of large size on pedestals that are well placed for formal design. A circular flower bed might be retained around each of these urns if desired. The beautiful American Beech and the purple beech adjoining should have everything else cleared out beneath them. The above is by no means a complete study of Lafayette Park but gives a few points only.

The "White Lot" calls for particular study. In its case --- and the same remark applies to most of the other public openings --- intelligent study rather demands a plan on paper with the existing walks and trees, etc., noted. Then the designer can present definite and specific memoranda, to be made out in detail, of just what is best to do. The Mall development brings certain geometrical lines of design into the "White Lot" and these should be plotted in dotted lines.





With such a paper plan the scheme for revision of the "White Lot" can be done intelligently so as to harmonize with the future Mall development. This, of course, dominates everything.

As for the immediate future of the "White Lot" it would be well to revise the shrubbery growth in many places. A great deal of it should be done away with, particularly at the meeting of drives and paths. In the main the effect of the parking here is of large trees and it would be enhanced by the feeling of sunlight and shadow beneath them across the grass area were there fewer shrub groups. Ultimately the Mall development of tree growth will radically change the scene but we are speaking of the present.

There are some groups of shrubbery which it would be well to keep and develop; notably one with its point facing toward the State Department building. We must remember that foliage masses are a matter of scale and in these large spaces of the "White Lot" with groups of tall trees, sundry groups of smaller rounded trees are really shrub effects and are very beautiful. We cannot go into details now but suggest the use of the fine large shrubs in connection with these lower rounded trees and the weeding out of such material as is ragged or unsightly. For example there are scattered here and there fine rounded bushes of the cornus alternifolia. These might well be readjusted for broader effects.

A word in closing as to the Cherry trees along the drive of Potomac Park. These are growing to a size where they will soon injure one another in most instances. We feel that they should be readjusted so that in the course of years these Cherry trees, grown full size and well developed, will be a notable display each spring in the beautiful city of Washington.

6.       MERIDIAN HILL:   On the morning of May 5th last, Colonel Ridley as Officer in charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, accompanied by Captain Peaslee, architectural designer engaged on Meridian Hill Park, consulted Mr. Platt and Mr. Kendall in the latter's office in New York City regarding a number of sketch models (numbered 1-A, B, C, and D) and explanatory sketches (numbered 2-A, B, C, and D, and 3-A and B), showing alternative schemes for the treatment of the cascade and for the east ascent. All plans were dated May 30, 1919. Mr. Ferruccio Vitale was present in consultation. The following suggestions, in general, were made for the further study of the details:

1.   An unbroken, unobscured series of pools flanked by planting, with small movement of water was approved; (1-D and 2-D, modified).
2.   The expanding of the treatment as a whole was approved, with corresponding increase in size of exhedra motif, south of pool.



3. The constant progression in size of pool from top to bottom; the protruding curve for the fall; the lowering of the top pool and the raising of the last one to attain triple fall about five feet high were approved.

4. The use of grouped steps with landings related to the size of the pools; steps at right angles to axis of walk; decorative pebble mosaic; sculptured coping (Caserta type); and seats along landings were approved.

5. The cross axis of hillside retained but bridge was eliminated and tunnel substituted, as indicated, with corresponding curving walks to be solidly planted. East Terminus of axis to be incorporated in 15th Street Wall.

6. Curving ascent from lower garden was adopted with theatre motif modified by planting (3-A).

7. Planting of pools with solid line of cedars backed up by informal massing of hillside was advised; Question previously raised by Mr. Vitale about varying sizes of cedars along Mall was withdrawn.

8. Seat-coping and pebble mosaic were approved for lower garden; also exedra change indicated above.

9. Use of large planting material for immediate effects was advocated; Mr. Vitale was instructed to prepare third schedule of largest sizes recommended by him.

10. Monuments on balustrade piers at 15th Street Entrance, previously eliminated, were restored.

11. Question was raised about use of sculpture in park scheme. Upper mall sites were indicated and coping of cascade for rococo treatment.

12. The use of tall lighting standards for general illumination was favored by Mr. Platt.

As a result of the above criticisms a sketch model and explanatory sketches

of the pools were laid before the Commission at this meeting in which changes had been made as suggested by Mr. Platt and Mr. Kendall (Sketches marked 1-A, B, C, D, and E, and 2-E).

The following suggestions were made:

1. It was suggested that an effort be made to secure the concave curve of the equal-fall scheme while maintaining a certain definite progression in size of fall,





corresponding to the increasing width and length of pool, similar to drawing 1-B modified.

2. Less variation in lateral ascents was considered desirable. While still retaining a certain perspective in the walk, the width at the top may be slightly increased and at the bottom, considerably decreased.

3. The seat coping along walks and pools was preferred with sculptural elaboration similar to Caserta.

4. The terminal falls were preferred to three, the arithmetical progression of the series to determine the exact height. Vertical jets are to be introduced on the lower level to increase the water display.

5. Rock-work and secondary planting below each fall is permissible to fill in the gaps between spouts.

6. Use of ascent monuments at foot of ascent is permissible. Additional features along falls, such as urn indicated, were considered superfluous.

7. Curve (reverse) of falls was not considered pronounced enough. It was proposed that a segmental curve be substituted.

7. FULL SIZE PLASTER MODEL OF GRANT MEMORIAL: The Secretary advised the Commission that Mr. Adams, as a committee with power on the Grant Memorial, had inspected the full-size plaster model of the equestrian statue for the Grant Memorial at the studio of the sculptor at Elmsford, New York, and had recommended its approval.

8. BUST OF HOUDIN FOR THE WHITE HOUSE: Some time ago the principal Chinese delegate to the Peace Conference in Paris while en route through this country, asked a representative of the State Department who was temporarily attached to his person, whether it would be possible for Mr. James Fraser, sculptor of New York City, to make a duplicate of the clay bust in model of the Houdin of Washington, now at Mount Vernon, for presentation by the Chinese Mission to the White House. The Acting Secretary of State asked the Commission to advise him whether, in their



opinion, it would be desirable for the United States Government to accept this generous offer, and, if so, what steps should be taken in the matter.

The Commission visited the White House with a bust and pedestal of the Houdin borrowed from the Corcoran Art Gallery, in order to discover a suitable location where the composition would be in scale with the surroundings. They selected a place at the right of the door of the entrance hall as suitable, and advised the State Department accordingly. (See Exhibit G for official letter).

9. BRONZE PLATE ON THE PLINTH OF THE JOHN PAUL JONES MONUMENT: Colonel Ridley read a letter he had received from the District of Columbia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, supplementing a personal visit from their committee, in which they offered to place without expense to the Government a bronze plate with an inscription (of which they enclosed the text) on the plinth of the monument to John Paul Jones. The Commission advised Colonel Ridley to disapprove the request, as they would not approve affixing a bronze tablet or plate to a stone monument. (See P.B. & G. Files # ).

10. WAR PHOTOGRAPHS SUBMITTED BY WAR DEPARTMENT: Mr. Platt advised that Mr. Weir, Major Frederick W. Palmer, and he, as a committee appointed by the Secretary of War, had looked over 580 small-sized photographs and 36 large-sized photographs selected by the War College for their inspection and selection, and had reported direct to the War Department their selection of about twenty, equally divided between the large prints and the small ones. These were clearly marked "A" in red pencil on the back, and had been selected from the point of view of general artistic excellence and character. The Secretary of War's request was for a selection of not less than 15 or more than 30. (See Exhibit H for letter reporting to the Secretary).

11. ROADS ON MALL IN FRONT OF FREER GALLERY: Secretary Walcott of the





Smithsonian Institution had referred back to the Officer in charge of Public Buildings and Grounds a road plan approved by the Commission several years ago for the area in front of and leading to the Freer Gallery on the Mall. The Officer in charge felt that it would be advisable to change the road system then approved so as to conform to the future road lines of the Mall according to the Park Commission plans, and consulted the Commission regarding it. Taking the matter up with the architect, Mr. Platt, both he and the Commission were agreed that changes were desirable. Mr. Platt then studied the problem and at this meeting reported a revised road plan (marked #1-B 5/19/19) which was approved by the Commission, and the Officer in charge so advised.

12. ROCK CREEK PARK WALL AND RAIL DESIGNS: Colonel Ridley laid before the Commission designs for a rustic barrier wall in Rock Creek Park and for a post and rail barrier, prepared by the landscape architect of his Office. The Commission considered these well in keeping with the informality of the park, and approved the designs. (Wall design approved is #1 - wall - 5/19/19, and rail #1 - rail - 5/19/19).

13. ARLINGTON FARMS PROJECT: By letter of April 16th last the Secretary of Agriculture submitted final plans for a layout for the Arlington Farms project together with a sketch elevation of a proposed laboratory building for the Bureau of Public Roads and an elevation of the three main groups of the proposed full development. Mr. Betts of the Office of Public Roads and Dr. Corbett of the Bureau of Plant Industry appeared for a conference regarding these exhibits. Regarding the elevation of the laboratory building, the Commission suggested that, if a one-foot wide shallow recess in the wall of the building would be thrown around the window openings it would improve the appearance and would bring the top of the upper windows lower so that they would not seem so much larger than the lower ones



(the lower ones being placed high above the floor so as to give more bench and desk room in the laboratory); the iron panel shown between the first and second story windows projecting beyond the sides of the openings was also objected to by the Commission, and it was suggested that this feature be kept down so as to make the upper and lower window openings count as one: - with these suggested modifications the sketch was approved.

Regarding the layout, - the possibilities of making the easterly border road straight instead of going around what is now called Dead Man's Curve, was discussed with Dr. Corbett and heartily approved. The plan was approved as to the location of the laboratory building, but the Commission wished to give some further thought to the arrangement near the railroad, and advised Dr. Corbett that they would communicate with him later. (See Exhibit I).

14. RESERVATION 158: Colonel Ridley laid before the Commission two sketch plans prepared by the landscape architect under his office (marked 158 - 1 - 5/19/19 and 158 - 2 - 5-19-19) for the development of Reservation 158 at the corner of Rhode Island Avenue and 7th street, NW. This reservation is small, densely shaded by large trees, three or four of which are in the triangle supported by an old iron post, and has straggling grass upon most of it. The Commission inspected it, later in the day, and there suggested the possibility of using bricks laid in gravel and set in with sand joints, and the working out of a pattern in several colors of bricks; water and air would reach the roots of the trees fully as well as now under that treatment. It was suggested to Colonel Ridley that a design incorporating those suggestions be worked up, and the two sketch designs submitted at this meeting resubmitted with it later on.

15. JUDICIARY PARK: Colonel Ridley laid before the Commission a sketch plan (Judiciary #1-5/19/19) prepared by the landscape architect of his office for





the treatment of Judiciary Park around the Court House. Further study of the walks east and west of the Court House was suggested, and the possibility emphasized of the placing of an iron fence around the entire park to head off the straggling across the grass which has resulted in unsightly turf-worn walks. Upon an inspection on the ground later in the day, the Commission advised that the turn north of the Court House be narrowed at E Street to 16 feet and that where it passes parallel to the face of the building it should be widened sufficiently to enable motors to maneuver. Other desirable minor modifications were pointed out to the landscape architect, who was present, and it is the intention to incorporate all suggestions of the Commission, after study, in a new sketch which will be presented at a subsequent meeting.

16. WEST POTOMAC PARK ROADWAYS ALONG RIVER FRONT: At the committee meeting in New York on April 3d last the Commission took detailed action on tentative plans for a road to run parallel to the Potomac in West Potomac Park with special emphasis on its relation to the Lincoln Memorial (See minutes of that meeting). Colonel Ridley again brought up for discussion this road plan supplemented by grading plans. They were considered satisfactory. It was reiterated that, although it might appear somewhat pinched and inconvenient if installed, a road running underneath the future memorial bridge embankments could be put in at any time in the future in view of the grades shown.

17. HARVARD PARK: Some time ago a plan for the development of Harvard Park was laid before the Commission, and approved. Colonel Ridley brought the matter up again by the presentation of a pencil tracing in detail. A question of detail led to a general discussion as to the appearance of the general design, there being an inclination to omit the lower walks and to broaden the upper walk. Instead of the pool in the little circle at the lower corner it was felt that



the space should be reserved for a memorial, perhaps a memorial fountain, and if that would be the case walks would have to approach it, preferably on easy curves because of the general outline of the triangle and its topography. Colonel Ridley called attention to the fact that if it was proposed to widen the upper path it should be noted that the trees on one side had already been planted, although they were of such a size that they could probably be moved. Before determining up definite suggestions on details, the Commission decided to visit the park again. The matter therefore was held over until the next meeting.

18. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL AMPHITHEATER PLANTING PLAN: Colonel Ridley, as Executive Officer of the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater Commission, laid before the Commission a sketch plan showing the planting proposed around the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater by the architects, Messrs. Carrere and Hastings of New York City, revised to meet the criticisms of the Commission on the preceding submission of the planting plan on April 25, 1919. (Marked 38-27, Inspected April 25, 1919). The plan was the old plan itself on which the changes had been made. Mr. Greenleaf, as the committee on the matter, inspected the revisions, and pronounced the plan satisfactory as now submitted.

After a short interval for lunch the Commission proceeded to the Lincoln Memorial, to the old Court House in Judiciary Park, Reservation 158 at Rhode Island Avenue and Seventh Street, and thence to St. John's Church at the corner of Sixteenth and H streets where, at the request of Rev. Rowland Smith, they gave him, as an act of courtesy, suggestions for the renovation of the church; regarding the latter it developed that the stucco on the outside was a recent innovation and that the choir and stained glass windows had been added since the construction of the church. From there the Commission proceeded to the White House to ascertain a location for the replica of the Houdin bust of Washington which China desires to present to the White House.





There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned subject to the call of the Chairman.



C O P Y

May 14, 1919.

Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts acknowledge receipt of the architectural drawings and specifications for the Princeton Monument which have been presented to the War Department for approval, and on which the Department asks the comment and advice of this Commission. You add that "inasmuch as the use of Bedford Indiana limestone is proposed in place of granite and bronze as originally contemplated, the views of the Commission are especially desired in regard to this particular phase of the matter".

The Commission respectfully report that they made an examination of the residence No. 2 East Seventieth Street, to which their attention was directed as showing the buff limestone in use. They also made inquiries as to the use of limestone for sculpture and inspected several buildings on which that material was used for the sculptural ornaments.

The Commission understand that the monument in question is now in process of erection according to the plans submitted and that the buff limestone is being employed. Therefore the only question now open is as to whether buff limestone or bronze shall be used for the sculpture.

The Commission are firmly of the opinion that both monument and sculpture should be of the same material. The use of bronze on stone in a short time presents the appearance of a black spot, which is neither agreeable or effective. As to the enduring qualities of limestone for sculptural uses the examples are not sufficient, as to either number or time, to enable the Commission to express an opinion.

The Commission regret that matters have proceeded so far as to preclude their advice on the subject of site, design, and other items being of use to the Department.

Very respectfully,

(signed) C. S. Ridley,  
Colonel, U. S. Army.  
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Hon. Benedict Crowell,  
Acting Secretary of War,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A.



May 14, 1919.

Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts acknowledge receipt of the architectural drawings and specifications for the Princeton Monument which have been presented to the War Department for approval, and on which the Department asks the comment and advice of this Commission. You add that "inasmuch as the use of Bedford Indiana Limestone is proposed in place of granite and bronze as originally contemplated, the views of the Commission are especially desired in regard to this particular phase of the matter".

The Commission respectfully report that they made an examination of the residence No. 2 East Seventeenth Street, to which their attention was directed as showing the buff limestone in use. They also made inquiries as to the use of limestone for sculpture and suggested several buildings on which that material was used for the sculptural ornaments.

The Commission understand that the monument in question is now in process of erection according to the plans submitted and that the buff limestone is being employed. Therefore the only question now open is as to whether buff limestone or bronze shall be used for the sculpture.

The Commission are firmly of the opinion that both monument and sculpture should be of the same material. The use of bronze on stone in a short time presents the appearance of a black spot, which is neither agreeable or effective. As to the enduring qualities of limestone for sculptural uses the examples are not sufficient, as to either number or time, to enable the Commission to express an opinion.

The Commission regret that matters have proceeded as far as to preclude their advice on the subject of site, design, and other items being of use to the Department.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) G. B. Hilditch,

Colonel, U. S. Army.

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Hon. Benedict Crowell,  
Acting Secretary of War,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

Bureau of Yards and Docks,  
Washington, D.C.

May 1, 1919.

Gentlemen:

There is herewith submitted for the approval of the Fine Arts Commission the plan for the proposed enlargement of the Naval Air Station at Anacostia, D. C.

The site lies opposite the War College and is at present occupied by two hangars, and a group of temporary buildings erected under war conditions. The ground on which the Station stands forms an obtuse tongue or projection to the general shore line of the Anacostia River - so any future shore drive would naturally curve in such a way as to be uninterrupted by this Station.

The exigencies of war demanded immediate filling of certain conditions so that the arrangement of the present group was dictated by practical considerations alone.

The proposed enlargement is now for experimental purposes and not military, so there will be no great increase in flying activities - but the present operation of the station cannot be interfered with and the arrangement of the plan submitted is influenced by this fact.

The present hangars must be maintained as they, together with their beach, represent a very large investment - one additional hangar is now proposed and space is provided for a future one. With this central group as the nucleus, a street scheme is planned on the three sides, the longitudinal street, forming the main artery of the plan.

The buildings are divided into three distinct divisions - (1) Residential and Administrative; (2) Industrial, and (3) Experimental.

The first group lying around the present temporary buildings forms a court, open to the river, which will be used, upon the removal of the temporary structures, for a parade ground. The varied sizes and purposes of the industrial group and the necessity of space required to take a land plane to the aviation field, prevents any symmetrical development of this section.

The minor buildings are of wooden construction and are to be covered with red asbestos shingles with the roof of the same material in a soft grey coloring.

The material proposed reducing the fire hazard and the color relieving the glare of sunlight until the planting has fully developed.

The hangars are to be covered with the same material and color, the pilasters on the sides of a light grey and the body in blended red shades, recalling the color scheme of the War College opposite.

EXHIBIT B.



Bureau of Yards and Docks,  
Washington, D.C.

May 1, 1919.

enlargement:

There is herewith submitted for the approval of the line into consideration the plan for the proposed enlargement of the Naval Air Station at Annapolis, Md.

The site lies opposite the War College and is at present occupied by two hangars, and a group of temporary buildings erected under war conditions. The ground on which the station stands forms an outcrop or projection to the general shore line of the Annapolis river - so any future shore drive would naturally curve in such a way as to be uninterrupted by this station.

The exigencies of war demanded immediate filling of certain conditions in the arrangement of the present group was dictated by practical considerations alone.

The proposed enlargement is now for experimental purposes and not military there will be no great increase in flying activities - but the present operation of the station cannot be interfered with and the arrangement of the plan admitted is influenced by this fact.

The present hangars must be maintained as they, together with their present investment - one additional hangar is now proposed and a space is provided for a future one. With this central group as the nucleus, a street scheme is planned on the three sides, the longitudinal street, forming a main artery of the plan.

The buildings are divided into three distinct divisions - (1) Residential and Administrative; (2) Industrial; and (3) Experimental.

The first group lying around the present temporary buildings forms a corner to the river, which will be used, upon the removal of the temporary structures or a parade ground. The varied sizes and purposes of the industrial group are the necessity of space required to take a lead plane to the aviation field, by means any symmetrical development of this section.

The minor buildings are of wooden construction and are to be covered with asbestos shingles with the roof of the same material in a soft gray color. The material proposed reducing the fire hazard and the color relieving the glare of sunlight until the planing has fully developed.

The hangars are to be covered with the same material and color, the pillars the sides of a light gray and the body is finished red shingles, recalling the color scheme of the War College opposite.

EXHIBIT E

The buildings are of wooden construction with the exception of the Engine Laboratory, as the expenditures for permanent buildings are not justified at this time when the evolution of the seaplane demands changing conditions in its shore establishment.

Respectfully,

(signed) C. W. Parks.

Fine Arts Commission,

1729 New York Ave., N. W.,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

The building and of modern construction with the exception of the main  
body, as the expansion for present business and for expansion of the  
main body of the building towards the rear of the lot.

Respectfully,

(Signed) C. A. Smith.

State Commission,

New York Ave., N. Y.

Washington, D. C.



May 20, 1919.

Admiral:

The Commission of Fine Arts have been in consultation with Commander Kirby Smith and Mr. Partridge of your office regarding the plans for the proposed enlargement of the Naval Air Station at Anacostia, D. C., submitted with your letter of May first last.

The Commission understand that the buildings are temporary. While the shapes of the buildings do not always lend themselves to harmonious development of a group, this can be remedied in large part by the use of planting as shown on the plans. The Commission are satisfied that the arrangement of the buildings, the general scheme of treatment, and the use of materials as outlined by Commander Smith and Mr. Partridge are as satisfactory as conditions will allow.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(signed) C. S. Ridley,

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Rear Admiral C. W. Parks,  
Chief, Bureau of Yards and Docks,  
The Navy Department.

ABC

EXHIBIT C

May 10, 1912.

Admiral:

The Commission of Fine Arts have been in consultation with  
 Commander Kirby Smith and Mr. Partridge of your office regarding  
 the plans for the proposed enlargement of the Naval Air Station  
 at Annapolis, D. C., submitted with your letter of May first last.  
 The Commission understand that the buildings are temporary.  
 While the shapes of the buildings do not always lend themselves to  
 harmonious development of a group, this can be remedied in large part  
 by the use of planting as shown on the plans. The Commission are  
 satisfied that the arrangement of the buildings, the general scheme  
 of treatment, and the use of materials as outlined by Commander Smith  
 and Mr. Partridge are as satisfactory as conditions will allow.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(Signed) W. B. Hildes.

Colonel, U. S. Army.

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Very Respectfully,  
 Chief, Bureau of Plans and Design,  
 The Navy Department.

ABC

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

May 10, 1919.

My dear Judge:-

The Commission of Fine Arts cordially commends the suggestion made by the Brightwood Citizens Association that the Lincoln Monument now in front of the Court House be transferred to the Brightwood Cemetery. Members of the Commission are going out today to find a suitable site for it on that interesting spot where Lincoln was under fire. Incidentally, I may say that the Commission spent a portion of yesterday afternoon at the Court House grounds to make suggestions as to the treatment of the space behind the main building and the spaces at the sides. I want to talk to you about their conclusions at as early a date as possible because I feel that you will approve them heartily.

Cordially, yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore.

Judge Walter I. McCoy,  
Supreme Court of the  
District of Columbia,  
Washington, D. C.

**EXHIBIT D.**



May 10, 1919.

My dear Sir:-

The Commission of Fine Arts cordially con-  
mends the suggestion made by the National  
Division Association that the Lincoln Memorial  
now in front of the Court House be transferred  
to the National Cemetery. Members of the Com-  
mission are going out today to find a suitable  
site for it on that interesting spot where  
Lincoln was buried. Incidentally, I may say  
that the Commission spent a portion of yesterday  
afternoon at the Court House grounds to make sug-  
gestions as to the treatment of the space behind  
the main building and the spaces at the sides.  
I want to talk to you about their suggestions at  
an early date as possible because I feel that  
you will approve them heartily.

Sincerely, yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore.

Judge Walter L. Rorer,  
Supreme Court of the  
District of Columbia,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D



PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS,  
Washington, D. C.

March 21, 1919.

MEMORANDUM FOR Colonel Ridley:

Herewith are several photographs showing the existing conditions in the locations noted on the back of each print.

In photograph A, it will be noted, the height of the planting of shrubbery is so great as to actually become a danger spot, not only to vehicular traffic of all kinds but also pedestrian traffic as well; the reason for the danger becoming more apparent when the shrubbery border shall have secured all its foliage.

It is recommended that this shrubbery be removed and seeded to grass as soon as practicable.

In photograph B, C, and D, it will be noted that thinning and removal of certain trees which can best be determined on the ground.

Photograph E, looking east of the Corcoran Art Building suggests the immediate need of improvement, owing to the proximity of such planting to so important a building.

Similarly photograph F, shows the need of removal of scraggly shrubbery behind the male figure in the foreground as well as the overgrown shrubbery in the immediate foreground. The latter shrubbery could well be removed this fall so as to secure the benefit of its foliage and until such time as a suitable plan can be made for that area.

A scene in Lafayette Park under G, shows the great need for immediate removal of certain dead and dying trees as well as certain sickly shrubs in various parts of the park; the latter shrubs detract from the peacefulness and naturalness of the park inasmuch as the irregular sized and sickly shrubs give an appearance of "spottiness".

A view seen in photograph H, suggests the desirability of removing unsightly "stubbed" trees in the distance.

The striving for naturalness as seen in view I, has its own reward as will be noted.

May I submit these photographs for your consideration at a meeting of the National Commission of Fine Arts?

(signed) Irving W. Payne,  
Landscape Architect.

IWP/RB

EXHIBIT E.

March 21, 1919.

MEMORANDUM FOR Colonel Hildreth:

Herewith are several photographs showing the existing conditions at the locations noted on the back of each print.

In photograph A, it will be noted, the height of the planting of shrubbery is so great as to actually become a danger spot, not only to vehicles but to all kinds of traffic; the reason for the danger becoming more apparent when the shrubbery border shall have secured its foliage.

It is recommended that this shrubbery be removed and seeded to grass as practicable.

In photograph B, C, and D, it will be noted that thinning and removal of certain trees which can best be determined on the ground.

Photograph E, looking east of the Government Art Building suggests the immediate need of improvement, owing to the proximity of such planting to so important a building.

Similarly photograph F, shows the need of removal of overgrown shrubbery in the main figure in the foreground as well as the overgrown shrubbery in the immediate foreground. The latter shrubbery could well be removed this fall so as to secure the benefit of its foliage and until such time as a suitable plan can be made for that area.

A scene in Lafayette Park under G, shows the great need for immediate removal of certain dead and dying trees as well as certain sickly shrubs in various parts of the park; the latter shrubs detract from the beauty and naturalness of the park inasmuch as the irregular sized and sickly shrubs give an appearance of "neglect".

A view seen in photograph H, suggests the desirability of removing slightly "stunted" trees in the distance.

The striving for naturalness as seen in view I, has its own reward and will be noted.

Why I submit these photographs for your consideration at a meeting of the National Commission of Fine Arts?

(Signed) Irving L. Payne,  
Landscape Architect.

1/25

EXHIBIT E



OFFICE PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS  
WASHINGTON.

April 11, 1919.

MEMORANDUM for Colonel Ridley:

Regarding the variously shaped flower beds where mentioned on the following reservations, may I earnestly recommend that the planting of the same be discontinued and that such areas previously occupied by cannas and similar annual bedding plants, be reseeded to grass this spring.

In general, the areas below mentioned are too small for formal bedding plants and such beds are not, strictly speaking, in keeping with the original general plan layout. The best principles of design restrict such formal flower beds to the formal flower garden or to botanical collections where they have their proper place, but in small city parks, circles, squares, and triangles, the area is needed for grass, trees and shrubs - plants which have a longer flower and foliage season and are much less expensive as regards upkeep inasmuch as the latter planting lasts many years.

Specifically, the introduction of odd-colored flower combinations is not conducive to restfulness in the small parkings below mentioned since bright colors tend to focus the attention on details rather than on the mass composition as a unified whole.

Res. 8 - Mt. Vernon Park.

Remove 2 circular flower beds from south of Carnegie Library.

Res. 9 - Franklin Square.

Plant English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) entirely around the large granite fountain located in center of park; leaving <sup>a</sup>1 foot area next to walk, to be resodded.

Res. 11 - McPherson Park.

Remove 4 triangular shaped flower beds and regrass same.

Remove 2 tree stubs (8" x 6') located approximately 60' north and south of equestrian statue.

Remove old stubby shrubs 5-6' height of Hibiscus (*Althea*) on south end of park.

Res. 30 -

Remove circular flower bed on east end of park and regrass same.

Res. 66 - Thomas Circle.

Regarding the building of paths or sidewalks across this circle, such are of course impossible either from an esthetic or practical standpoint; such changes would ruin the dignity of the setting.

The eleven seats, seem sufficient in number to serve the purpose intended - that of rest places. Any large increase in numbers

April 11, 1919.

MEMORANDUM FOR Colonel Hickey:

Regarding the variously shaped flower beds here mentioned on the following reservations, may I earnestly recommend that the planting of the same be discontinued and that such areas previously occupied by cannae and similar annual bedding plants, be reserved to grass this spring.

In general, the areas below mentioned are too small for formal beds and such beds are not, strictly speaking, in keeping with the original plan layout. The best principles of design restrict such formal flower beds to the formal flower garden or to botanical collections where they have their proper place, but in small city parks, squares, triangles, etc. area is needed for grass, trees and shrubs - plants which have a longer flower and foliage season and are much less expensive as regards upkeep insurance as the latter planting lasts many years.

Specifically, the introduction of odd-colored flower combinations is not conducive to restfulness in the small parkings below mentioned since bright colors tend to focus the attention on details rather than on the mass composition as a unified whole.

Item 8 - Mt. Vernon Park.

Remove 2 circular flower beds from south of Carnegie Library

Item 9 - Franklin Square.

Plant English Ivy (Hedera helix) entirely around the large granite fountain located in center of park; leaving 1 foot area next to walk to be resodded.

Item 11 - Metropolitan Park.

Remove 4 triangular shaped flower beds and resod same.  
Remove 2 trap areas (8' x 6') located approximately 50' north and south of basketball stadium.  
Remove old shrubby shrubs 3-4' height of Hibiscus (Lilacs) on south side of park.

Item 20 -

Remove circular flower bed on east end of park and resod same

Item 22 - Thomas Circle.

Regarding the building of walls or sidewalks across this circle such are of course improper either from an aesthetic or practical standpoint; such changes would ruin the beauty of the setting.  
The eleven seats, seen sufficient in number to serve the purpose intended - that of rest places. Any large increase in numbers



would tend to make the circle crowded, not only with seats but increase the tendency of persons to walk on the grass.

Removes all flower beds from this circle and reseed to grass.

Res. 16 - 162, 65, 27.

These should remain in grass as at present.

Res. 63 and 64.

Recommend that these remain as at present.

Res. 62.

Remove flower bed and reseed to grass. Reseed small area to grass north of Maidenhair Tree (Ginkgo biloba).

Res. 60 - Dupont Circle.

Remove all sand from circular walks next to shrubbery. Sand needed in concrete bordered sand boxes for children's play.

Res. 143 -

Reseed where bare, to grass.

Res. 26 - Washington Circle.

Remove unsightly green plant urn of cast iron. If same is bird bath would suggest same remain. Remove two beds of Adam's needle (Yucca filamentosa) and reseed same. Remove three flower beds and regrass same.

Remove 2 dying stubby poplars facing K St. N.W. and N. Hampshire Avenue, N. W. and regrass same area.

Res. 10 - Lafayette Square.

Recommend that all flower beds in this park with exception of the three lying parallel and nearest to Pennsylvania Avenue, be suitably graded and reseeded.

Numbers of reservations are referred to March 1919 map.

Irving W. Payne,  
Landscape Architect.

IWP/RB

EXHIBIT G.

Irving W. Payne,  
Landscape Architect.

Numbers of observations are referred to March 1919 map.

and reseeded.  
three lying parallel and nearest to Pennsylvania Avenue, be suitably graded  
Recommend that all flower beds in this park with exception of the

Res. 10 - Lafayette Square.

Avenue, N. W. and regrass same area.

Remove 3 dying stumpy poplars facing N St. K.W. and W. Hampshire.

Remove three flower beds and regrass same.

would suggest same remain. Remove two beds of Adam's needle (Yucca filis-

Remove unsightly green plant and of cast iron. It same is blind path

Res. 26 - Washington Circle.

Reseed where bare, to grass.

Res. 143 -

in concrete bordered sand boxes for children's play.  
Remove all sand from circular walks next to shrubbery. Sand needed

Res. 60 - Dupont Circle.

north of Maidenhair Tree (Ginkgo biloba).

Remove flower bed and reseed to grass. Reseed small areas to grass

Res. 62.

Recommend that these remain as at present.

Res. 63 and 64.

These should remain in grass as at present.

Res. 16 - 162, 62, 27.

Removes all flower beds from this circle and reseed to grass.  
the tendency of persons to walk on the grass.  
would tend to make the circle crowded, not only with seats but increase

C O P Y

May 13, 1919.

Dear Mr. Phillips,-

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts visited the White House yesterday with a bust of George Washington in their arms and a pedestal in the wagon. They located the "Father of his Country" in all sorts of places and finally discovered a suitable location at the right of the door of the entrance hall. Mr. Kendall feels that the bust and pedestal may be made in such manner as to be in scale with the surroundings.

You ask to be advised whether in the opinion of the Commission it is desirable for the United States Government to accept the generous offer made by the Chinese Delegation. The White House already contains many gifts made by various countries, not all of which, unfortunately, are appropriate to the spaces available. For example, the great tapestry now hanging in the East Room is entirely out of scale with the room and shuts off the principal window. It is to be hoped that before long the tapestry can be removed to the National Museum where its size and its general interest as a work of art will have more of a chance.

Cordially, yours,

(signed) Charles Moore.

Hon. William Phillips,  
The Assistant Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

CM:MG.

EXHIBIT G.



May 18, 1919.

Dear Mr. Phillips:-

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts visited the White House yesterday with a host of George Washington in their arms and a pedestal in the wagon. They located the "father of his country" in all sorts of places and finally discovered a suitable location at the right of the door of the entrance hall. Mr. Kendall feels that the bust and pedestal may be made in such manner as to be in scale with the surroundings.

You ask to be advised whether in the opinion of the Commission it is desirable for the United States Government to accept the generous offer made by the Chinese Delegation. The White House already contains many gifts made by various countries, not all of which, unfortunately, are appropriate to the spaces available. For example, the great tapestry now hanging in the East Room is entirely out of scale with the room and shuts off the principal window. It is to be hoped that before long the tapestry can be removed to the National Museum where its size and its general interest as a work of art will have more of a chance.

Cordially, yours,

(signed) Charles Moore.

Hon. William Phillips,  
The Assistant Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

W:ms.

EXHIBIT 3



May 8th, 1919.

My dear Mr. Keppel:

Mr. Weir, Major Palmer and I looked over the photographs which you sent us, and made a selection of about twenty, equally divided between the large prints and the small ones. Those that we selected are clearly marked "A" in red pencil on the back. We looked at them from the point of view of general artistic excellence and character.

I trust that you may find our service of some value in making your final selections.

Faithfully,

(signed) Charles Platt.

Mr. F. P. Keppel,  
Third Assistant Secretary,  
War Department,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H.

May 8th, 1913.

My dear Mr. Keppel:

Mr. Blair, Major Palmer and I looked over the photographs which you sent us, and made a selection of about twenty, equally divided between the large prints and the small ones. Those that we selected are clearly marked "1" in red pencil on the back. We looked at them from the point of view of general artistic excellence and character.

I trust that you may find our service of some

value in making your final selections.

Respectfully,

(signed) Charles Blair.

Mr. W. E. Keppel,  
Third Assistant Secretary,  
War Department,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H

May 24, 1919.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Referring to your letter of April sixteenth last and the proposed general layout of Arlington Farms and the sketch elevation of a proposed laboratory building for the Bureau of Public Roads transmitted therewith for the action of the Commission, the Commission have made certain suggestions regarding the latter direct to Dr. Corbett and Mr. Betts, representatives of your department in the conference on the matter, which can be carried out within the limits of cost of the structure. The Commission recognized the problem with which the Department has to deal owing to the increased cost of materials and the limited amount of money available for the project, and are satisfied that the best arrangements possible under the circumstances are being made. The Commission still have under consideration the general plan for the grounds, and will advise regarding that later.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(signed) C. S. Ridley,

Colonel, U. S. Army,  
Secretary and Executive Officer.

The Honorable

The Secretary of Agriculture.

EXHIBIT I.

May 24, 1919.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Referring to your letter of April sixteenth last and the proposed General Layout of Arlington Farms and the attached elevation of a proposed laboratory building for the Bureau of Public Roads transmitted therewith for the action of the Commission, the Commission have made certain suggestions regarding the latter direct to Dr. Corbett and Mr. Petts, representatives of your department in the conference on the matter, which can be carried out within the limits of cost of the structure. The Commission recognized the problem with which the Department has to deal owing to the increased cost of materials and the limited amount of money available for the project, and are satisfied that the best arrangements possible under the circumstances are being made. The Commission still have under consideration the General plan for the grounds, and will advise regarding that later.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(signed) C. S. Bailey,

Colonel, U. S. Army,  
Secretary and Executive Officer.

The Honorable

The Secretary of Agriculture.